

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /152 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2429

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5218

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN CLAIM TO GULF OF SIRTE

REF: (A) STATE 207934, (B) USNATO 5086

1. POLADS ON OCTOBER 30 AGAIN DISCUSSED NATO MEMBERS' RESPONSES TO LIBYAN CLAIM OF GULF OF SIRTE AS INTERNAL WATERS. ITALIAN REP SAID ROME BELIEVED ALLIES SHOULD "HARMONIZE" RESPONSES TO LIBYAN CLAIM AND SEND NOTES RESERVING POSITIONS FOLLOWED BY NOTES CONTAINING FORMAL PROTESTS. UK REP SUPPORTED ITALIAN HARMONIZATION SUGGESTION AND THOUGHT HMG MIGHT LIKE ITALIAN TWO-STAGE APPROACH.

2. BELGIAN AND DANISH REPS SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERED LIBYAN MOVE CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, BUT HAD NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO REACT FORMALLY, AND IF SO, HOW.

3. NETHERLANDS REP (UNDER INSTRUCTIONS THIS WEEK) TOGETHER WITH FRENCH AND NORWEGIAN REPS SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD NOT DECIDED ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS AND THEREFORE HAD MADE NO DECISIONS ON RESERVING NPOSITIONS OR LODGING PROTESTS.

4. FRG REP SAID BONN WOULD SEND NOTE RESERVING ITS LEGAL
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POSITION BUT MAKE NO FORMAL PROTEST, AND CANADIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO THE SAME.

5. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT SOME DELEGATIONS DID NOT HAVE FINAL

INSTRUCTIONS YET AND SUGGESTED LIBYAN CLAIM ITEM BE KEPT
ON AGENDA FOR ANOTHER WEEK. U.S. REP RECALLED THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT WOULD FORMALLY PROTEST LARG ACTION, AND TOOK
OPPORTUNITY TO ADD THAT HE DID NOT KNOW TIMING OF THIS PROTEST.
MCAULIFFE

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